



# PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
1919 M STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554 **DA 98-2408**

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## **COMMISSION ANNOUNCES ANTENNA STRUCTURE LIGHTING RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO YEAR 2000 COMPUTER ISSUE**

In light of the Year 2000 ("Y2K") computer date change situation, the Federal Communications Commission is informing licensees and regulatees of their responsibilities under the Commission's rules for keeping antenna structures properly lighted.

**Background:** Many computers and computer software programs were not designed to recognize the year change from 1999 to 2000 or are otherwise unable to process dates relating to the turn of the millennium. These computers (and the systems they control) might malfunction or cease to work unless they are reprogrammed or replaced by the end of 1999.

**Effect on Antenna Structures:** Y2K-related problems could cause a structure's light systems to fail, which will create a hazard to air navigation. Computer-controlled devices, such as those found in automatic monitoring and control systems used for antenna structure lighting, are vulnerable to Y2K-related malfunctions, and may fail. Commercial electric power sources may also fail, leaving antenna structures vulnerable to blackouts.

**Registrants' Responsibilities:** The Commission considers all light outages and malfunctions as extremely serious situations. We therefore expect antenna structure owners (and licensees, who are secondarily responsible in the event of default by the owner) to become aware of the ways in which Y2K-related problems may affect their light systems, and to be prepared to promptly report and remedy all outages and malfunctions.

Owners using an automatic alarm system designed to detect light failures are required to "properly maintain" and to periodically inspect such a system under Section 17.47 of the Commission's rules. Owners should evaluate their systems during the next periodic inspection and must correct any problems before the anticipated date of failure or malfunction, and/or switch to daily visual inspections of their antenna structure lighting.

The Commission's existing antenna lighting rules are designed to protect air navigation in the event of light outages and malfunctions, and are also applicable to owners who experience Y2K-related light problems. Under the rules, antenna structure owners must (1) *display and maintain* the lighting assigned by the Commission; (2) regularly *inspect* lighting and associated control equipment; (3) promptly *report* and (4) *record* light outages, malfunctions, and restoration; and (5) *repair or replace* malfunctioning lights

and equipment. These rules are reprinted, in part, on the back of this notice.

***Additional Information:*** The Commission provides updated information on the Year 2000 webpage, located at <http://www.fcc.gov/year2000>. For information about antenna structure registration, visit the antenna homepage at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/antenna>. Commission contact: Bert Weintraub or Jamison Prime, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, (202) 418-0680. News Media Contact: Meribeth McCarrick, (202) 418-0654